



Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: **Wednesday, November 9, 2022.**

Time: **7:00 PM.**

Location: **Conducted via Remote Participation.**

To Register for this Zoom meeting:

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/tZcpcu6rrzlqHNSaf9L9hxuxl3EtReZZaF5Q>

Meeting ID: 834 5731 9060

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Members of the public are asked to send written comments to Daniel Amstutz at damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us with a copy to Laura Swan at laura.swan.TAC@gmail.com.

Additional documents regarding the below agenda items will be posted to the calendar notice on the Town's website at:

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/28358/82>

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy

In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology, all participants wishing to attend via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and follow multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by telephone at (646) 876-9923 using the meeting ID provided above.

Agenda

NOTE: Times are for planning purposes only and will vary depending upon discussion. If time becomes short, some topics may be postponed to a later meeting.

- 1. 7:00 Administration – Chair (15 min).**
 - A. Notice of Remotely Conducted Meetings.
 - B. Approval of 10/12/22 meeting notes.
 - C. Thank you to Dan Amstutz.
 - D. Correspondence.
 - E. Meeting dates for 2023.
- 2. 7:15 Public Comments (for information only, not for action) – Chair (5 min).**
- 3. 7:20 Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda) -- Wayne/ /Corey (15 min).**

4. 7:35 Discussion: Franklin St/Lewis Ave/Philips St—Wayne (15 min).
5. 7:50 New Business: Summer St/ Symmes Rd – Shoji (10 min).
6. 8:00 Update: Mt Gilboa Traffic Calming—Ray, Shoji (5 min).
7. 8:05 Update: Downing Square Signage – Melissa, Beth, Ray (5 min).
8. 8:10 Update: Gibbs School/ Rawson Rd – Aslanian, Smith, Rateau (5 min).
9. 8:15 Update: Huntington Rd – Shoji, Beth (5 min).
10. 8:20 Update: Thompson Area Traffic Calming – Scott, Laura (5 min).
11. 8:25 Update: Wachusett Ave and Appleton St – Wayne, Jim, Jeff (5 min).
12. 8:30 Update: Eastern Ave – Laura, Jeff (5 min).
13. 8:35 Update: Comp Permit 1021-1027 Mass Ave – Ray, Bill, Jeff (5 min).
14. 8:40 Update: Park Ave/Frontage Road signals – Laura (5 min).
15. 8:45 Discussion: Summer St/ Victoria Rd –Jim, Shoji (10 min).
16. 8:50 Adjourn.

Correspondence Sent/Received from 9/10/22 to 10/6/22:

1. “Unclear Stop Signs at Symes Rd Light,” Letter to SB from Greg Dennis, 10/25/22.

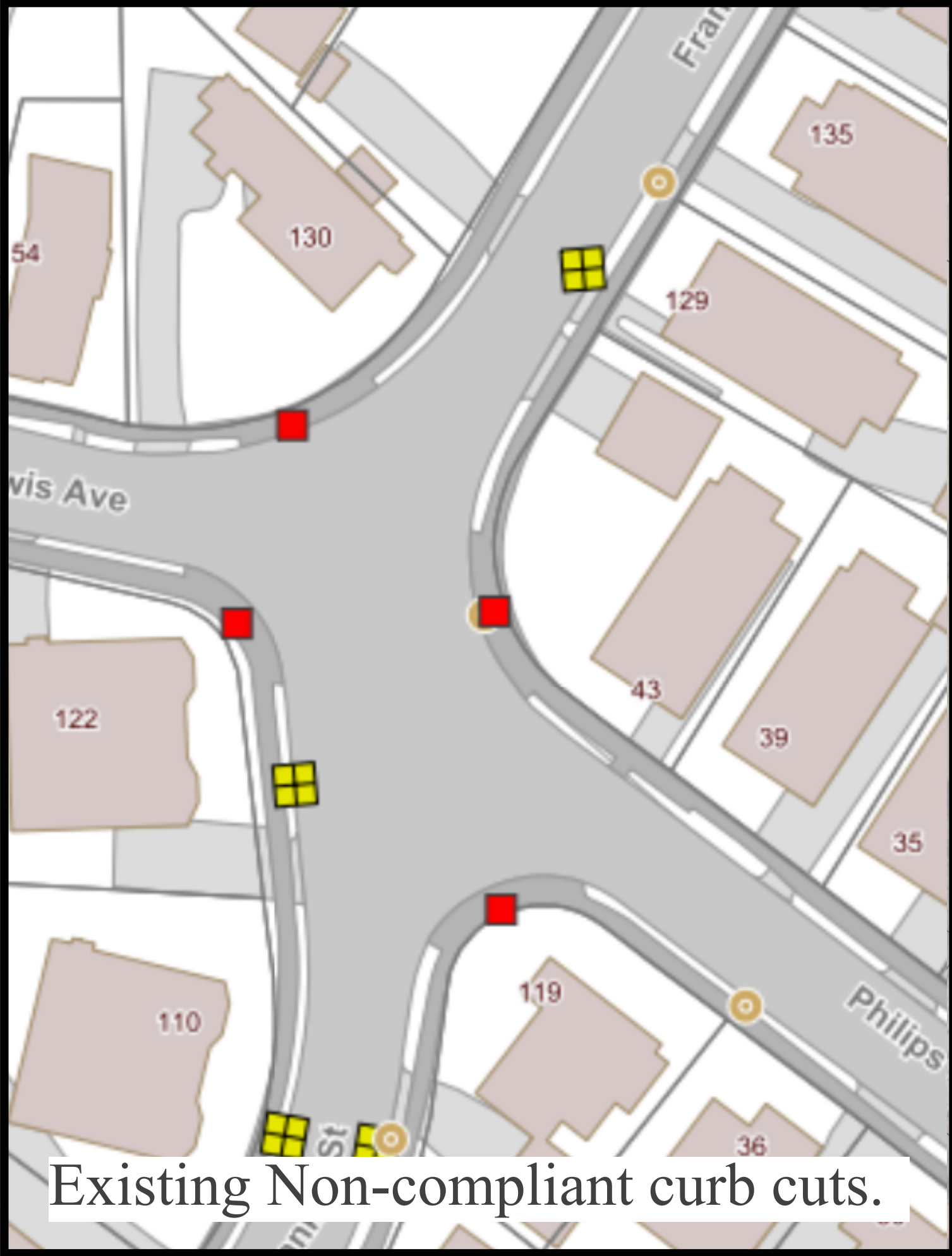
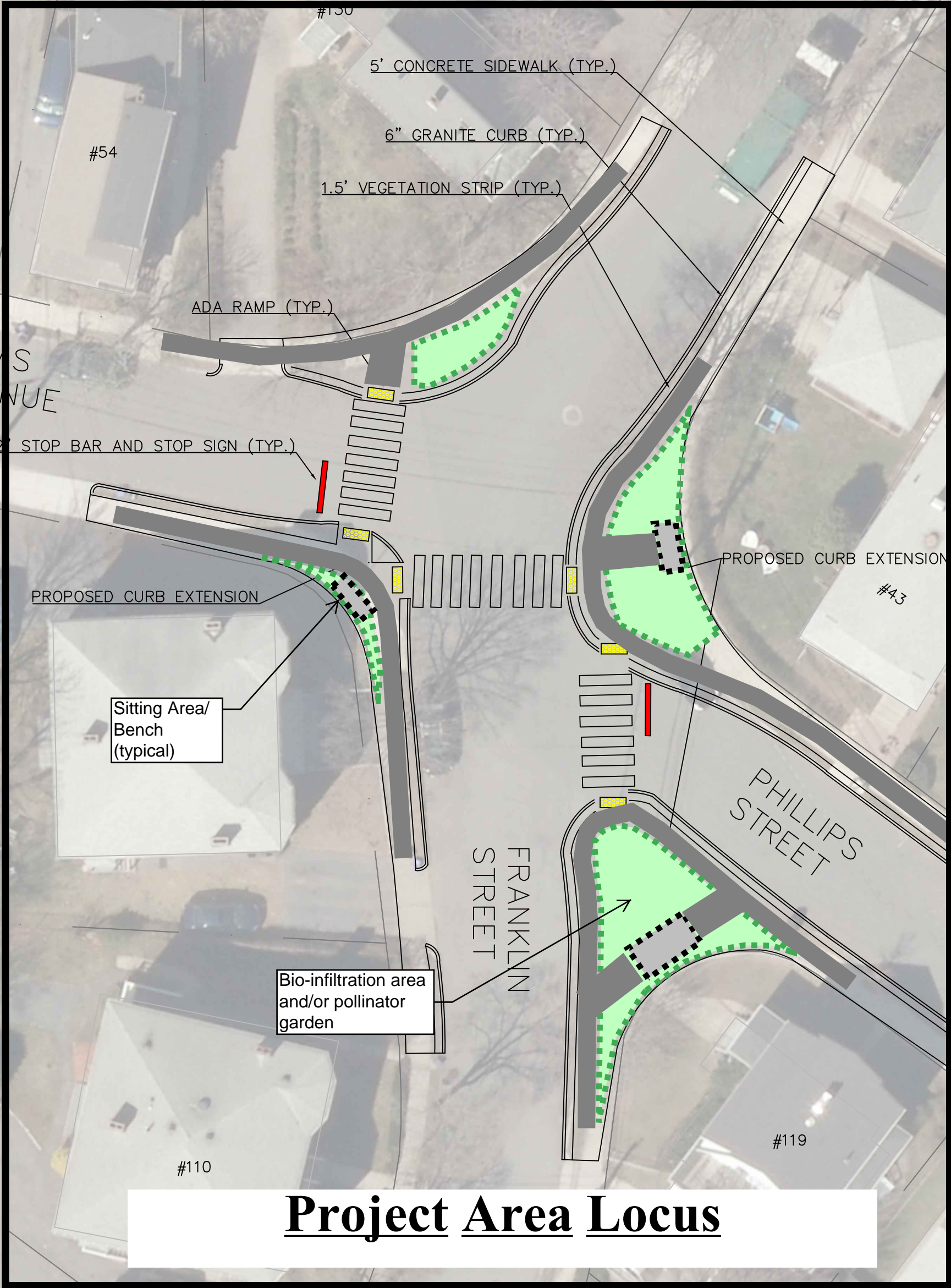
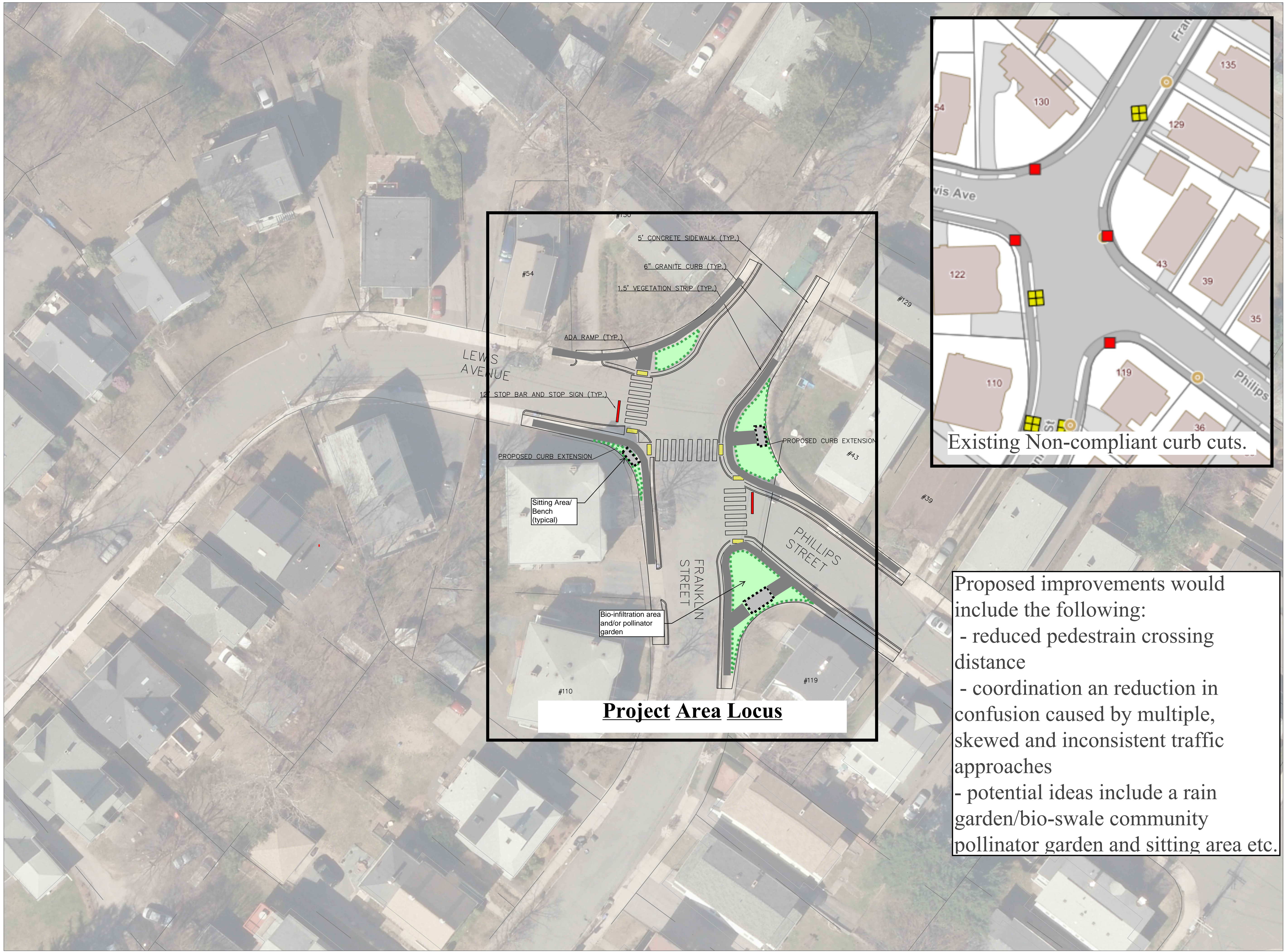
Next Meetings:

12/14/22 Wednesday – Zoom.

1/11/23 Wednesday – Zoom.

Attachments:

1. Governor Charles Baker’s 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.



Proposed improvements would include the following:

- reduced pedestrain crossing distance
- coordination an reduction in confusion caused by multiple, skewed and inconsistent traffic approaches
- potential ideas include a rain garden/bio-swale community pollinator garden and sitting area etc.

NOTES

No.	Revision/Issue	Date
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Town of
ARLINGTON
Engineering Division
51 Grove Street
Arlington, MA 02476

TRAFFIC CALMING -
FRANKLIN, LEWIS, PHILLIPS

Project:	Sheet:
Drawn By: AC	Concept #1
Scale: 1" = 20'	
Date: Dec. 14 2021	

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

LENARD T. DIGGINS, CHAIR
DIANE M. MAHON, VICE CHAIR
JOHN V. HURD
STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY
ERIC D. HELMUTH



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
TELEPHONE
781-316-3020
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Swan, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Lauren Costa
Administrative Assistant

DATE: October 25, 2022

RE: Unclear Stop Signs at Symmes Road Light

The Select Board at the meeting of October 24th referred the attached to you for your review and recommendations back to the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

attachment

cc: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Swan** <laura.swan.tac@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 20, 2022 at 4:46 PM

Subject: Re: TAC: Unclear stop line at Symmes Rd light

To: Greg Dennis <gdennis@alum.mit.edu>

Mr. Dennis,

Thank you so much for your email. The Transportation Advisory Committee is a group of volunteer residents and Town employees who advise and give recommendations to the Select Board on transportation issues and questions around town, usually by collecting data and applying engineering guidelines.

The best way to make a request like this is to reach out to the Town's decision making authority, the Select Board. They often refer these issues to TAC or to other Town departments, and we would be happy to look into it if they ask us.

Best,

Laura Swan

TAC Chair

On Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 12:12 PM Greg Dennis <gdennis@alum.mit.edu> wrote:

Hi TAC Chair Swan,

When travelling south east on Summer St, at the intersection with Symmes Rd there is no clear stop line before the traffic signal. The lack of any clear stop line in that direction means that some cars run it when it is red, unclear of whether they are actually expected to stop. Others stop where there is a break in the double yellow lines, but that leaves your car practically underneath the signal, too close to see when it changes back to green. Would TAC be able to take a look at where that stop line ought to be and take steps to ensure it is clearly marked?

Thanks!

Greg Dennis

19 Wheaton Rd



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Arlington Planning Department,
730 Mass Ave, Arlington MA

Date: December 14, 2021.

To: Select Board.

From: Transportation Advisory Committee.

Subject: Recommended **Summer Street and Victoria Road Crosswalk Improvements**

Memorandum

1. Background:

Safety issues were raised by residents related visibility of pedestrians in this crosswalk and TAC was asked to revisit the location.

A prior TAC review resulted in expanding the No Parking zone to 40' prior to the crosswalk on the eastbound side of Summer St. Observations related to that show that 40 was insufficient to ensure safety.

2. Summary Analysis

The biggest concern is that traffic does not see pedestrians starting to cross until they are well past their safe stopping distance. There is a critical lack of visibility of the pedestrians at the curb, and the crosswalk signs and pavement markings do very little to prepare motorized vehicles to stop. These observations apply to both the Eastbound and Westbound directions of traffic on Summer St with the Eastbound direction being more severe.

On-street parking activities drastically impact sight distance as well. Parking right up to the crosswalk severely limits sight distance especially eastbound coming through the curve. The 40' no-parking area frequently has illegally parked cars blocking sight lines. Activity at the park and playing fields draw pedestrians frequently whether from the neighborhood or from people parking in the neighborhood and walking, and children are especially at risk. These observations and the analysis of the stopping sight distance are given in detail in Section 4 of this memo.

3. Recommendations

A two-pronged approach is recommended, where in the long term more costly capital improvements may be included as part of the Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway project

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(<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/11771/16>). In the Short term, some signage and pavement markings will provide immediate safety improvements at this crosswalk.

- **Summary Recommendations:**
- Repaint the crosswalk markings
- Add an advanced yield line on the road before the crosswalks in conjunction with a Yield Here to Pedestrians sign R1-5 or R1-5A.
- Paint the entire No Parking area with a white chevron pattern to increase visibility.
- Install flex posts along the entire No Parking area on either side of the crosswalk.
- Remove the Lowell Street Detour sign on Summer St westbound
- Lower/move the No Parking signs in both directions so they are not blocking the crosswalk sign
- Add orange pedestrian crossing flags on both sides of Summer Street
- Put up a Town Speed Limit sign in both directions far enough in advance of the crosswalk so as not to block other signs
- Eastbound
 - Remove current parking spaces out to 100 feet before the crosswalk
 - Remove current parking space out to 20 feet past the crosswalk
 - Add an arrow sign (W16-7P) underneath the crosswalk sign on the north side of Summer St and trim the tree that is blocking that sign
- Westbound
 - Trim the tree on the corner that is blocking pedestrian visibility
 - Remove the one parking space between the two driveways
 - Install a crosswalk sign and arrow on the back side of the sign on the south side of Summer Street

4. Existing Conditions and Problem Analysis

4.1. There is limited visibility for crosswalk signage and crosswalk markings on road.

Figure A: Crosswalk signage observations



Crosswalk signage recommendations:

- Add an arrow sign underneath the crosswalk sign on the north side of Summer St
- Add a crosswalk sign on the back of the current sign on the south side of Summer St
- Trim the tree on the north side that is blocking sign visibility for eastbound drivers

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- Lower/move the No Parking signs in both directions so they are not blocking the crosswalk sign
- Remove the Lowell Street Detour sign on Summer St westbound

Figure B: Pavement Marking observations



Pavement Marking recommendations:

- Repaint the crosswalk markings
- Add an advanced yield line on the road before the crosswalks in both directions

4.2. There is limited visibility for both pedestrians waiting at the curb to cross and for drivers approaching the crosswalk in both directions to see pedestrians and be able to safely stop. Pedestrians and vehicles are not visible when pedestrians are at the curb and drivers are at the safe stopping distance for 30 mph (109feet).

Figure C: Pedestrians waiting at the curb have limited visibility - observations

Pedestrians do not have a clear view of traffic approaching the crosswalk in either direction.



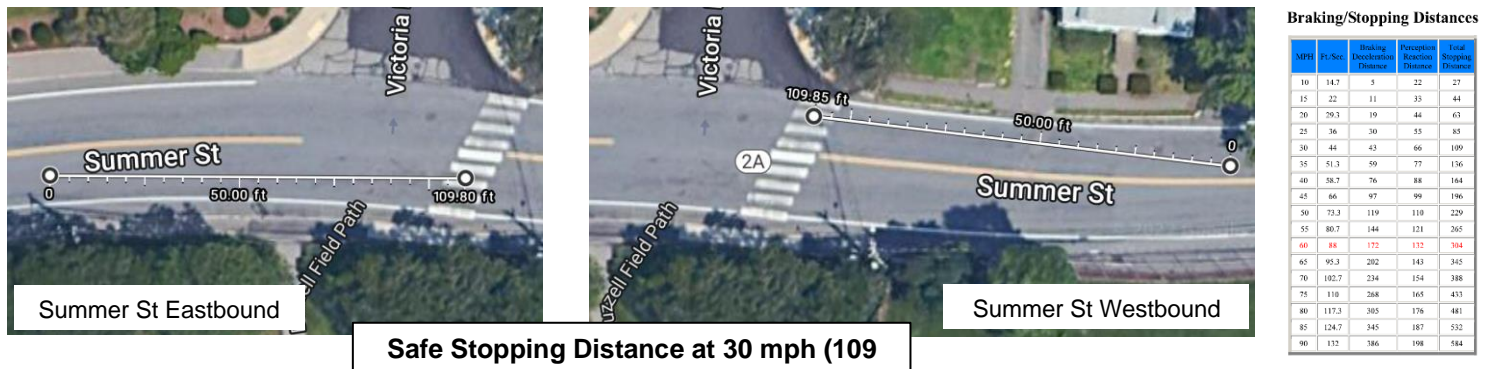
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Figure D: Drivers approaching the crosswalk have limited visibility - observations

Drivers do not have a clear view of pedestrians waiting at the crosswalk in either direction.



Figure E: Stopping Sight Distance



Limited visibility for both pedestrians and drivers – recommendations:

- Eastbound - Remove current parking spaces out to 100 feet before the crosswalk
- Eastbound - Remove current parking space out to 20 feet past the crosswalk
- Westbound - Remove the one parking space between the two driveways
- Install bollards along the entire No Parking area and crosswalk
- Paint the entire No Parking area and crosswalk
- Add orange crossing flags on both sides of Summer Street

11/9/22 - Draft

4.3. Speed limits are not clear, and there have been a number of crashes along this portion of Summer Street.

No Posted Speed Limit:

- No posted speed limit signs along Summer Street near the crosswalk
- The assumption is that the Town Wide Speed Limit of 25 applies
 - Google maps and Apple maps do not agree on the speed limits between the rink and Mystic Street - Both show Summer Street eastbound from Mill to Mystic at 30 mph
- Safe stopping distance at 30 mph is 109 feet (used in pictures for views)

Figure F: Crash data

Crash Date	Type of Collision	Light Conditions	Injury Severity	Nonmotorist involved
4/30/2016	Rear-end	Daylight	No injury	No
5/21/2016	Rear-end	Daylight	No injury	No
6/30/2016	Rear-end	Daylight	Not Reported	No
10/26/2017	Rear-end	Daylight	Non-fatal injury - Non-incapacitating	No
12/9/2017	Rear-end	Dark - lighted roadway	No injury	No
6/1/2018	Angle	Daylight	Non-fatal injury - Non-incapacitating	No
11/21/2018	Rear-end	Daylight	No injury	No
6/17/2019	Rear-end	Daylight	No Apparent injury (O)	No
12/23/2019	Rear-end	Dark - lighted roadway	No Apparent injury (O)	No
3/22/2021	Rear-end	Daylight	No Apparent injury (O)	No
7/7/2021	Rear-end	Dark - lighted roadway	Suspected minor injury (B)	No
11/13/2021	Angle	Daylight	Suspected minor injury (B)	Yes - Collision with pedestrian

Table 1 - 2016-2021 crashes at Summer St at Victoria Road. Source: MassDOT IMPACT Crash Database.

No Posted Speed Limit and Crashes – Recommendations:

- Put up a Speed Limit sign in both directions far enough in advance of the crosswalk so as not to block other signs
- Other recommendations already made should increase visibility and reduce crashes